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14 DEC 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : NRO Film Processing

1. The NRO now depends on the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York, and the Air Force Special Projects Processing Laboratory in Westover, Massachusetts, for processing of the film produced by most NRO programs. According to the memorandum of understanding regarding processing and reproduction of photography signed on 11 August 1962, the Eastman Kodak covert processing facility under CIA is to be utilized for processing all original negative materials, some film duplication, and R&D of new processing techniques for both laboratories. Westover is to be "utilized to produce duplicates for distribution to users."

2. In connection with the FY 1965 NRO budget review, it is necessary that this policy be reaffirmed or modified by joint agreement so that we can comment properly on your budgetary proposals. We have inquired several times about this area, but have received no clear response. This causes us some concern in view of your proposed annual report to the PFIAB which makes little distinction between the two facilities. We note further that an operational readiness inspection is to be held at AFSPPL in January, 1965, to demonstrate its capability "executing 'womb-to-tomb' processing of CORONA production at the earliest practicable time." Your several references to the "excessive" overtime at the Eastman Kodak facility is another indication that you may be proposing to recommend reconsiderations of the original distribution of responsibilities between EK and AFSPPL.

BYE-0446-64

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3. I therefore request that you brief the NRO Executive Committee at your earliest opportunity, and subsequently appropriate members of my staff, on your plans and proposals for utilization of the two film processing facilities.

(SIGNED) JOHN A. MCCONE

John A. McCone
Director

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense

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Re-written by [signature] 01/00/65

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director,
(S) National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: NRO Film Processing

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2. In connection with the FY 1965 NRO budget review, Mr. McCone and I are anxious that this policy be reaffirmed or modified by joint agreement so that we can comment properly on your budgetary proposals. We have inquired several times about this area, but have received no clear response. This causes us some concern in view of your annual report to the PFIAB which makes little distinction between the two facilities. We note further that an operational readiness inspection is to be held at AFSPPL in January, 1965, to demonstrate its capability "executing 'womb-to-tomb' processing of CORONA production at the earliest practicable time." Your several references to the "excessive"

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overtime at the Eastman Kodak facility, is another straw in this wind. Such incidents suggest that you now have reason to reconsider the original distribution of responsibilities between EK and AFSPPL.

3. Rather than infer your views on this important matter, I desire that you brief CIA on your plans and policy for utilization of the two groups at your earliest convenience.

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Role of AFSPPL vs. Eastman Kodak

1. This memorandum suggests that you sign the attached note to the DMBD.

2. The subject of the AFSPPL budget came up at the 27 October EXCOM meeting and was subsequently established at the level of [redacted]. During the discussion, Mr. McCone expressed E.K.'s concern that increased utilization of the Westover facility was aimed at ultimately replacing the present E.K. function. McMillan responded with a flat denial. On other occasions Mr. McCone has informally asked McMillan what Westover's part in the NRO processing picture was to be and McMillan has managed to sidestep the issue each time.

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3. We are not championing E.K. in this matter nor are we questioning the AFSPPL role. However, we are on record as expressing concern over the lack of sufficient information on which to base decisions regarding proper funding levels for Westover, and specifically Westover's role vis-a-vis E.K. While the attached cable sheds some light on the future role of AFSPPL, it does not represent the definitive information necessary.

4. It is against this background that I recommend you sign the attached memorandum.

Albert D. Wheelon
Deputy Director

Attachments:

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]

Distribution:

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✓ 1 - DCI

1 - Dr. Wheelon

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